

MINUTES OF HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL, May 23, 2011
GENERALIZED SUMMARY

President Belden called to order a special Work Session of the Hamilton County Council at 7:01:28 p.m. Those in attendance were Councilors Jim Belden, Meredith Carter, Paul Ayers, Steve Schwartz, Judy Levine, Brad Beaver; Dan Stevens, Director of Administration; John South and Rodney Rulon, Soil and Water; Sheriff Mark Bowen, Major Tom Gehlhausen and Ryan Horine; Counsel Jeanette Kassebaum; Auditor Dawn Coverdale and Chief Deputy Auditor Robin M. Mills.

President Belden had the following recommended agenda:

- Opening Comments of overview what has been done.
 - Removed all stipends
 - Eliminated the receptionist position in the front lobby of the Judicial Center (31,725)
 - Reduce the security at the Judicial Center (\$250,000)
 - Reorganize and reduce the JSC operations by \$200,000
 - Reduce court administration pauper attorney budget by \$200,000
 - Eliminate the Building Inspector position from the Planning Department Budget (51,195)
 - Reduce Surveyor's budget by two positions (\$100,000)
 - Eliminate funding of EMS (\$432,000)
- Auditor requests a vote confirming the actions taken on May 17, 2011 (Councilor Swartz moved to confirm the actions taken on May 17, 2011. Councilor Beaver seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.)
- Are we going to ask all departments to reduce their budgets based on a percentage of the remaining deficit? (Yes)
- How do we handle budgets that don't comply with Council directives? (Those Departments that do not comply with the Council directives will meet with the County Finance Committee.)
- What is our time table for budget action?
 - Submission by department heads (Instructions to Departments will be by mid-June)
 - Review by Council (Can take place shortly after July 1, 2011)
 - Final Adjustments (Adjustments must be to Mike Reuter by July 1, 2011)

After discussion on the 2012 Budget preparation it was the consensus of the Council that the Council will stay with 8 directives from the May 17, 2011 work session plus a percentage of cuts adding back in the judicial stipends, upon the advice of Counsel Jeanette Kassebaum.

The Auditor will:

- Add back the Judicial stipends to the worksheet
- Add the Health and Parks Department to the worksheet, since these departments are part of the county general levy.
- Prepare the 2011 budget instructions for the Council to go over on June 1, 2011.
- The instructions shall include language regarding permanent cuts, the Elected Official and Department Heads will be asked to explain how these cuts will effect County services.

Councilor Levine would like for the Finance Committee to look into the Voter Registration budget. Auditor Coverdale stated that the legislation has changed regarding voter registration and that they can be moved back under the Clerk.

Auditor Coverdale stated that there is also the question regarding vote centers. Councilor Schwartz asked if any thought has been given to not-for-profits. Auditor Coverdale stated that this has not yet been addressed.

Auditor Coverdale stated her concern is asking the Elected Officials and Department Heads to follow the instructions and make the cuts but then the Council finds that another round of cuts need to take place. It was the consensus of the Council that they (the Council) will not ask for more cuts, but look to the cash and Rainy Day Fund.

Councilor Belden asked for guidance regarding the Adams Township EMS funding. It was the consensus of the Council to pay Adams Township EMS funding of \$108,000. The White River Township EMS funding shall also be paid the entire \$108,000.

Jeanette Kassebaum has requested that if the Council receives phone calls from the EEOC Investigator that they are to not speak with them, but request that they call her.

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The Council will also meet in a Work Session on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

President

Auditor